

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY
PRESS AVAILABILITY, WITH YASUSHI AKASHI AND CROATIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE
GOJKO SUSAK
SPLIT, CROATIA
OCTOBER 3, 1994

UNPROFOR HQS

MR. AKASHI: I am pleased and satisfied with the fruitful discussion. We have agreed on our close cooperation to make sure that there will be judicious and clear use of air power by NATO in support of UNPROFOR. We have agreed that the dual key system is important to make sure that whatever air action will be satisfactory from UNPROFOR's viewpoint. We discussed and agreed on our total commitment to the peace process and the urgent need for a Contact Group plan to be accepted by one party which still refuses to accept it. We have brought to the attention of Mr. Perry a number of concerns of UNPROFOR, political, diplomatic, as well as humanitarian, which have to be taken into account in any action which will be envisaged by NATO. By and large I'm very satisfied and content.

Q. The Secretary has publicly spoken about the use of immediate force, once UNPROFOR requests a strike -- the use of immediate force, no warning, and multiple targets. Did you react to those specific points.

MR. AKASHI: We agreed on the timeliness of response which is essential, particularly in the case of close air support situation. When it got to the question of warnings, I think you have to discuss that in the light of the different environments, different circumstances. The system of multiple targets is already in existence.

Q. Is the U.S. going to send troops to join U.N. troops on the ground in danger here in Bosnia?

SECRETARY PERRY: The U.S. position continues to be as it has been for quite some time now that we will send ground troops whenever the peace plan is agreed to as part of the then reconstituted peacekeeping force.

Q. Mr. Secretary, what's your characterization of how the meeting went and how close you are?

SECRETARY PERRY: I thought we had a very good meeting and I thank Mr. Akashi and General [Bertrand] de Lapresle, and General [Sir Michael] Rose as well as we talked to Mr. Morse, the UNHCR representative. I thought this was a very good meeting, a very good exchange of views. We are very close on the strategic vision of what needs to be done here, which is bringing the peace plan to a closure as soon as possible, and we're closer than the media would suggest on the tactical issues of how to achieve this -- how to

best use air power. NATO obviously wants to use its air power in as effective a manner as possible; we are very mindful of the danger to the troops on the ground. Most of our discussion worked out the -- we talked about the specifics of how you protected one while still carrying out judicious use of the air power.

Q. Mr. Akashi, are you going to look at the specific recommendations that came out of the NATO defense ministers meeting and recommend a United Nations response to that? Is that the next step?

MR. AKASHI: As a result of the meeting of NATO defense ministers, the governments will discuss this matter at the level of their permanent representatives in New York at the United Nations, and I'm sure they will convey their decision to the Secretary General who will discuss the matter with the Security Council and will act on the basis of whatever instructions come from New York.

Q. Is it safe to say that you're still concerned about the safety of the U.N. peacekeepers on the ground, vis-a-vis air strikes?

MR. AKASHI: We are always mindful of the safety of all our personnel as well as the personnel of the humanitarian agencies and organizations, and since our primary purpose of being in Bosnia-Herzegovina is humanitarian in purpose, of course that has to be a major consideration which has to be kept in mind in the employment of air power.

SPLIT AIRPORT

SECRETARY PERRY: I'm on my way back to the United States from a defense ministers meeting in Spain. At the defense meeting we agreed on a set of actions that could be taken to make the use of NATO air power more effective in support of the UNPROFOR; the ground forces in Bosnia in particular. I met this morning with Mr. Akashi, General de Lapresle, General Rose, giving them the background on the discussions we had at the defense ministers meeting and getting their reaction to that so that we could move toward a more convergent position between the U.N. and NATO. I think it was a very successful meeting, very constructive meeting with Mr. Akashi this morning and I do believe that UNPROFOR and NATO are going to work much more closely together in the future.

I then wanted to have a meeting with Minister Susak and brief him on the defense ministers meeting and describe to him the results of the meeting that we had with the UNPROFOR. In addition to that, we took the time to discuss some issues of bilateral interest between Croatia and the United States. In particular, we are establishing a bilateral working group which we agreed last July to set up, and the first meeting of that group will be in Zagreb in November of this year. That will be specifically set up to promote defense cooperation between Croatia and the United States. And we talked about the timing and the agenda for that meeting and the issues we want to work on together.

MOD SUSAK: I informed Secretary Perry that Croatia agreed that the air cover be extended to the (unintelligible) zones and informed him about what we know about the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially the development of federation.

Q. Mr. Perry, can we expect to see tougher air strikes now (inaudible) or are we going to stick with the U.N. line of very limited and appropriate, as they call it, response?

SECRETARY PERRY: I think we're going to see a judicious use of air power which I believe will be more robust; it will be more effective.

Thank you very much.

WASHINGTON TIMES

Oct. 4, 1994 Pg. 15

U.N. stalls U.S. request to toughen air strikes

By John Diamond
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPLIT, Croatia — The United Nations balked yesterday when asked by Defense Secretary William Perry to support intensified NATO air strikes against Bosnian Serb forces.

A closed-door meeting lasting nearly three hours in this Adriatic port yielded no firm commitment from the top U.N. official in Bosnia to the NATO proposal for sterner retaliation against Bosnian Serb violations.

Failure to reach agreement could scuttle the recent resolve of the 16 NATO defense ministers to end the practice of using allied planes only in weak, tit-for-tat air strikes.

Both Mr. Perry and Yasushi Akashi, the U.N. special representative in the region, said they drew closer to a "convergence of opinion." But Mr. Akashi said the safety of U.N. peacekeepers, not the forcefulness of NATO air strikes, remains the top priority on the

road to a peace treaty in the former Yugoslavia.

"Since our primary purpose for being in Bosnia-Herzegovina is humanitarian, of course that has to be a major consideration which has to be kept in mind in the employment of air power," Mr. Akashi said.

Mr. Perry said after the meeting, "We're going to see a judicious use of air power, which I believe will be more robust, more effective."

Mr. Akashi, asked whether he agreed that the United Nations would allow tougher air strikes, said, "I can't comment on that."

Both Mr. Perry and Mr. Akashi said the "dual-key" command structure, in which NATO must receive U.N. approval before launching a strike, will continue.

At Mr. Perry's urging, the 16 NATO defense ministers last week said air strikes called in by the United Nations in Bosnia should come quickly, without warning, and should be launched against multiple targets.

EUROPEAN STARS & STRIPES

Oct. 6, 1994

Pg. 1

Reserve, Guard to be used more in Europe, Perry says

By CHUCK VINCH
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department will make greater use of Reserve and National Guard forces to ease the highly stressful operating tempo on U.S. European Command units, Defense Secretary William Perry said Wednesday.

Troops in Europe have responded "enthusiastically and quite effectively" to an increasing variety of combat and contingency operations in Bosnia, the Middle East and Africa over the past few years, Perry told reporters at a Pentagon news briefing.

But on his recent trip to Europe for a meeting of NATO defense ministers, Perry said he got an earful from senior U.S. military commanders and servicemembers about the increasing stress that such operations are placing on personnel and their families.



During his trip, Perry had a lengthy meeting with the five U.S. four-star commanders in Europe and also visited Spangdahlem AB and the Grafenwöhr training area in Germany.

"There is a stress issue because of the operational tempo that keeps them away from their homes and bases a very high percentage of the time," he said. "I spent a lot of time talking to troops and commanders about that issue and its effect on readiness."

Perry emphasized that near-term readiness — the ability of U.S. forces in Europe to deploy for combat or contingency operations today — is "absolutely first class."

But if the current operating tempo is maintained much longer, Perry said, it could "rattle the keener edge those forces now have three to five years down the road."

Along with using more Reserve and National Guard forces in contingency operations to back up the active-duty forces in the theater, Perry also said he intends to shift funds into more quality-of-life initiatives for troops in Europe.

He did not offer specifics but said that philosophy will be reflected in the fiscal 1996 defense budget request that will be unveiled early next year.

Perry said three major issues were on the table for discussion during his meetings with his NATO counterparts: intensifying NATO airstrikes against the Bosnian Serbs, opening the alliance to new members, and addressing the growing security problems on NATO's southern flank.

On Bosnia, the ministers agreed that "we need to press the Bosnian Serbs by shutting off the flow of war material from Serbia and by making more effective use of NATO air power in response to provocations," Perry said.

Although such airstrikes would continue to be made only at the request of U.N. officials, Perry said the NATO ministers agreed that such strikes should be made quickly and without warning, and should be launched at multiple targets.